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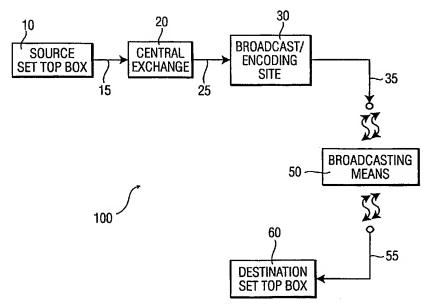
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(54) Title: INTER SET TOP BOX PERSONAL MESSAGING WITHOUT USING INTERNET



(57) Abstract: A communication method which allows users to send and received text messages between their respective set top boxes. The method which includes transmitting text messages from multiple source set top boxes to an exchange. The exchange, in turn, packetizes the text messages into data packets and forwards the data packets to a multiplexor. The multiplexor multiplexes the data packets along with audio and video data into an output transport stream. The output transport stream is then broadcast to multiple destination set top boxes. The destination set top boxes have demultiplexing capability, thereby allowing a user at the destination set top box to ultimately read, and respond, to the original transmitted text message. A system employing the same is further disclosed.



SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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 as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for all designations For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.